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MIDEAST--LEAD ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, OCT. 15, REUTER -- ISRAELI TROOPS TODAY  
THREW BACK EGYPTIAN FORCES ATTEMPTING TO PIERCE THE STRENGTHENED  
ISRAELI LINES IN THE SINAI, MILITARY SOURCES REPORTED HERE.

THE ATTACK CAME AS ISRAEL SAID IT WAS PREPARING FOR A DECISIVE  
CLASH WITH EGYPT ON THE SINAI FRONT.

THREE SYRIAN PLANES WERE DOWNED TODAY WHEN THEY ATTACKED  
ISRAELI TROOPS IN SYRIA, AN ARMY SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED.

ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN THE HULE VALLEY WERE SHELLED  
INTERMITTENTLY FOR AN HOUR LAST NIGHT BY LONG-RANGE SYRIAN  
ARTILLERY, ISRAEL RADIO SAID.

IT SAID THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES BUT ONE BUILDING WAS  
DAMAGED IN THE VILLAGE OF ZADOT.

EARLIER, ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER GEN. MOISE DAYAN SAID  
ISRAELI TROOPS HAD CRUSHED THE SYRIAN ARMY AND THE "CRUCIAL  
HOUR WAS APPROACHING ON THE SUEZ FRONT."

"WECAN. . .2ND GRAF (RNR7).

REUTER PK/JK0630